

Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks
1420 E 6th Ave, PO Box 200701 Helena, MT 59620-0701
(406) 444-2452

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT CHECKLIST

PART 1. PROPOSED ACTION DESCRIPTION

1. Type of Proposed Action: Relocation of Trap Range.

2. Agency Authority for the Proposed Action: MCA87-1-276 through 87-1-279 (Legislative established policies and procedures for the establishment and improvement of shooting ranges) MCA87-2-105 (Departmental authority to expend funds to provide training in the safe handling and use of firearms and safe hunting practices)

3. Project Title: Shelby Trap Club
P.O. Box 168
Shelby, MT 59474

4. Name, Address and Phone Number of Project Sponsor:
Glenn E. Kurkowski
111 E. Richland Ave.
Shelby, MT 59474
(406) 424- 5053

Resolution Date: June 30, 2005

5. Cooperating Agencies and/or Supporting Groups: City of Shelby, Toole County Extension Office (4-H Program), Toole County Commissioners, & Toole County Sheriff's Department.

6. Location Affected by Proposed Action:

Approximately 40 acres leased from the City of Shelby, MT
SE1/4SW1/4 of Section 23, Township 32 North, Range 2 West

7. Project Size: Less than one acre on the 40 acre tract leased from the city of Shelby.

8. Map:

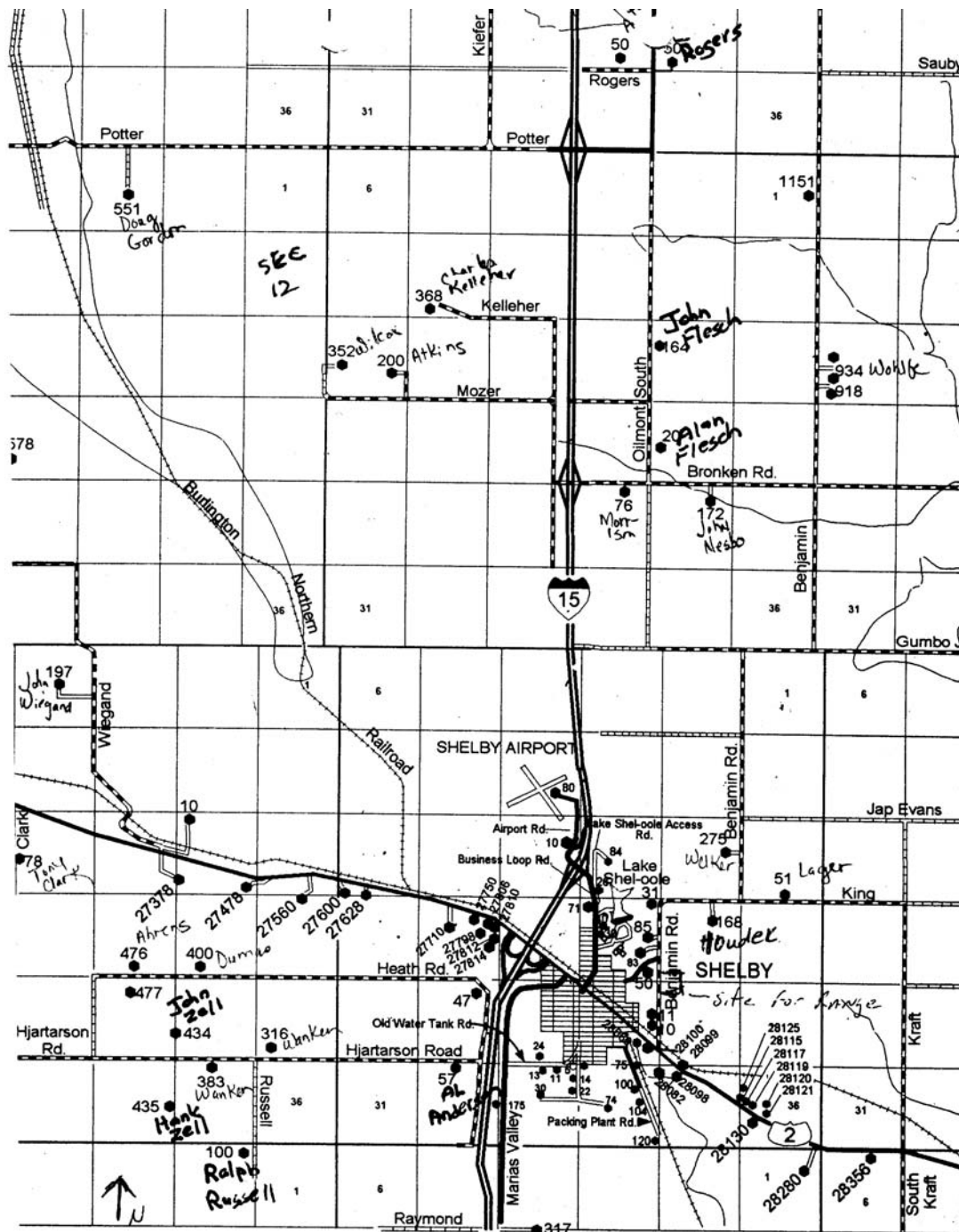


Figure 1 - Shelby Area Map - Range located on extreme east side of city.

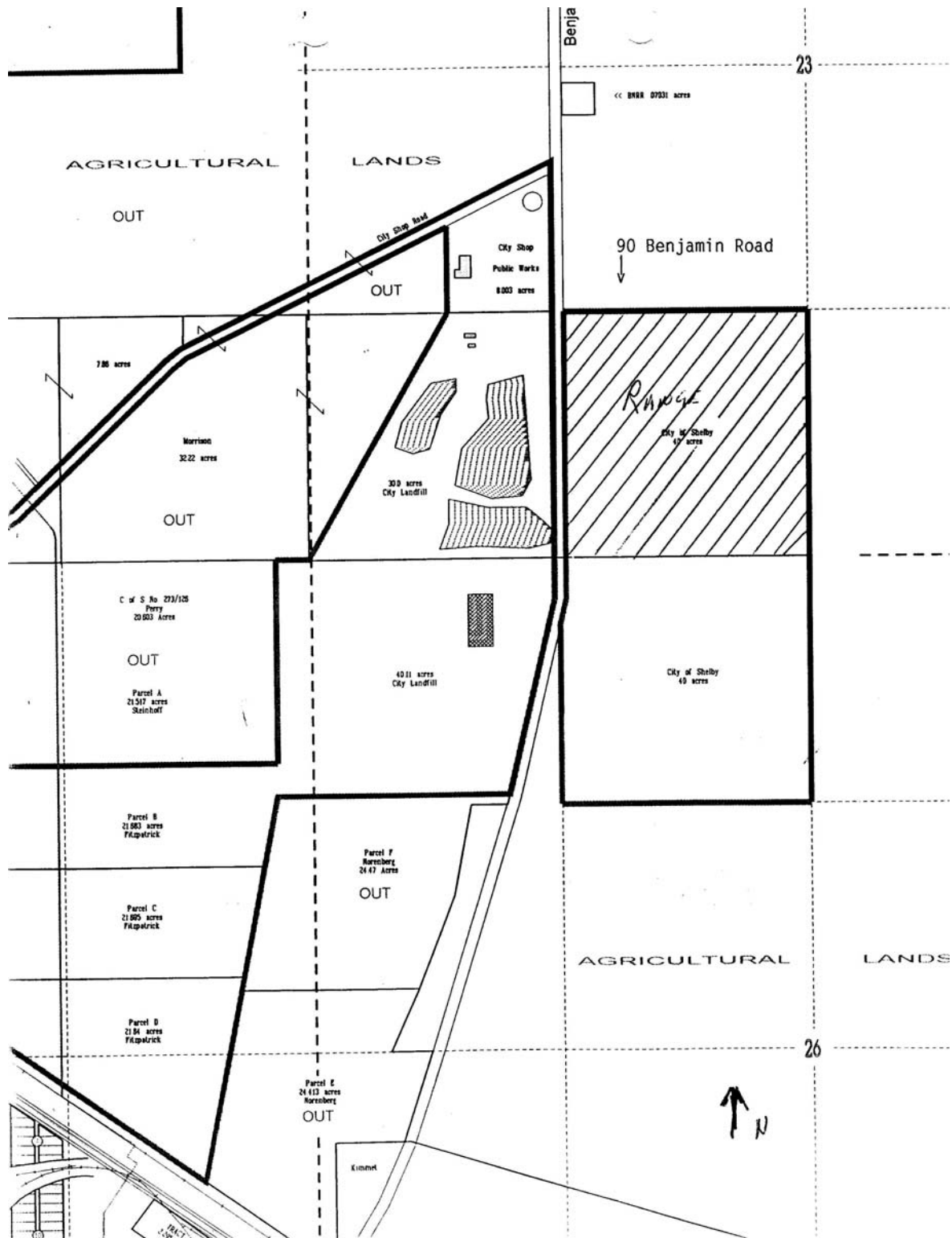


Figure 2 - Close up Map location of Trap Range

9. Description of Project:

The area of current development is less than one acre.

Stage 1: Fill, leveling and rolling for shooting lanes, storage shed, and parking area.

Stage 2: Digging pit for trap, framing walkways, storage building, and trap house floor.

Stage 3: Framing walls of trap house and pouring concrete for trap house and shooting lanes. Installing steel roof on trap house. Moving preexisting storage building to new foundation. Fencing parking area and posting signs.

Future plans are to install up to 4 trap houses, a 5-station sporting clays, and a meeting and classroom training structure, on the leased 40 acres.

All projects to be completed by Oct. 2005.

10. Listing of any Other Local, State, or Federal Agency that has Overlapping or Additional Jurisdiction:

(a) Permits:

<u>Agency Name</u>	<u>Permit</u>	<u>Date Filed/#</u>
	None	

(b) Funding:

<u>Agency Name</u>	<u>Funding Amount</u>
Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks	\$5,143.74

11. List of Agencies Consulted During Preparation of the EA:

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

PART 2. ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

Table 1. Potential impact on physical environment.

Will the proposed action result in potential impacts to:	Unknown	Potentially Significant	Minor	None	Can Be Mitigated	Comments Below
1. Unique, endangered, fragile, or limited environmental resources				X		
2. Terrestrial or aquatic life and/or habitats				X		X
3. Introduction of new species into an area				X		
4. Vegetation cover, quantity & quality				X		
5. Water quality, quantity & distribution (surface or groundwater)				X		X
6. Existing water right or reservation				X		
7. Geology & soil quality, stability & moisture				X		
8. Air quality or objectionable odors				X		
9. Historical & archaeological sites				X		
10. Demands on environmental resources of land, water, air & energy				X		
11. Aesthetics				X		

Comments (A description of potentially significant, or unknown, impacts and potential alternatives for mitigation must be provided.)

2. & 5. There are no live streams, irrigation ditches or ponds on the site. No delineated wetlands.

Table 2. Potential impacts on human environment .

Will the proposed action result in potential impacts to:	Unknown	Potentially Significant	Minor	None	Can Be Mitigated	Comments Below
1. Social structures and cultural diversity				X		
2. Changes in existing public benefits provided by wildlife populations and/or habitat				X		
3. Local and state tax base and tax revenue				X		
4. Agricultural production				X		X
5. Human health				X		X
6. Quantity & distribution of community & personal income				X		
7. Access to & quality of recreational activities				X		X
8. Locally adopted environmental plans & goals (ordinances)				X		
9. Distribution & density of population and housing				X		
10. Demands for government services				X		
11. Industrial and/or commercial activity				X		

Comments (A description of potentially significant, or unknown, impacts and potential alternatives for mitigation must be provided.)

4. The site is located at the edge of an agricultural area primarily utilized for grazing. Site is city land that has been dormant for sometime, with a minimal history of horse grazing. Agricultural practices on the surrounding areas will continue.

5. New site improves overall shooter safety from the old site. Shooting areas will be fenced to prevent livestock and the public straying into the range areas. Range will be signed as part of this project. Range site plans, construction and the ongoing operational and maintenance plans meet the National Rifle Association standards for safety of the range participants and the public at large.

7. Range will provide year round access and handicapped accessibility. Organizations have been

* Include a narrative explanation under Part III describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or cannot be evaluated.

** Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM).

*** Determine whether the described impact may result and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts.

**** Include a discussion about the issue in the EA narrative and include documentation if it will be useful.

contacted and the range will be open to hunter education classes, 4-H, Boy Scouts, Sheriff's Department, Border Patrol, U.S. Customs Border Protection, and Highway Patrol for training and instruction. Range is open to the public during normal operating times.

Does the proposed action involve potential risks or adverse effects which are uncertain but extremely harmful if they were to occur? NO

Does the proposed action have impacts that are individually minor, but cumulatively significant or potentially significant? This proposed action has no impacts that are individually minor, but cumulatively significant or potentially significant. Cumulative impacts have been assessed considering any incremental impact of the proposed action when they are combined with other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions, and no significant impacts or substantially controversial issues were found. There are no extreme hazards created with this project and there are no conflicts with the substantive requirements of any local, state, or federal law, regulation, standard or formal plan.

Description and analysis of reasonable alternatives (including the no action alternative) to the proposed action whenever alternatives are reasonably available and prudent to consider and a discussion of how the alternatives would be implemented: Only the proposed alternative and the no action alternative were considered. There were no other alternatives that were deemed reasonably available, nor prudent. Neither the proposed alternative nor the no action alternative would have any significant negative environmental or potentially negative consequences. There are beneficial consequences to Acceptance of the proposed alternative (construction of the ranges), such as increased recreational opportunities, firearms and hunter safety training, and law enforcement training within the community. The no action alternative would be not to build the shooting ranges and continue on with present activities. Land use would remain the same. Present activities also include occasional shooting activities on existing or other temporary ranges. However, using safely designated, designed and supervised ranges, such as the proposed alternative is the prudent alternative.

List proposed mitigative measures (stipulations): NONE

Individuals or groups contributing to, or commenting on, this EA:

Loren Bennett, Shelby Trap Club President

Glenn Kurkowski, Project Sponsor, Shelby Trap Club

Narrative Evaluation and Comment:

All of the pertinent or potential impacts of the project have been reviewed, discussed, and analyzed. Due to the minor nature and insignificant effects of the proposed action, this should be considered the final version of the environmental assessment. There are no significant environmental or economic impacts associated with the proposed alternative. The strong, positive public comments and support of the City of Shelby combined with

* Include a narrative explanation under Part III describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or cannot be evaluated.

** Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM).

*** Determine whether the described impact may result and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts.

**** Include a discussion about the issue in the EA narrative and include documentation if it will be useful.

the potential for adding an important resource to the shooting sports and hunter education resources for the Shelby area and the State of Montana all support the approval of the proposed alternative. Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks should approve the proposed alternative for the construction of the relocated range and range improvements for the Shelby Trap Club.

EA prepared by: GENE R. HICKMAN
Ecological Assessments
Helena, MT 59602

Date Completed: August 20, 2005

PART 3. DECISION

Recommendation and justification concerning preparation of EIS:

None required.

Describe public involvement, if any: Project has passed through the Shelby City Council, article printed in the Shelby Promoter, Legal Notice of Lease, and City newsletter article.

- * Include a narrative explanation under Part III describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or cannot be evaluated.
- ** Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM).
- *** Determine whether the described impact may result and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts.
- **** Include a discussion about the issue in the EA narrative and include documentation if it will be useful.